NEWS RELEASE

Steve Marshall Alabama Attorney General



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AG STEVE MARSHALL REVIEWS COMPLAINTS OF VIOLATIONS OF ALABAMA GUN LAWS IN BIRMINGHAM, AUBURN, HUNTSVILLE, MONTGOMERY, AND SOUTHSIDE

(MONTGOMERY) - Attorney General Steve Marshall today released public statements about formal complaints received by his office concerning possible unlawful prohibitions of firearms in Birmingham, Auburn, Huntsville, Montgomery and Southside. After reviewing and investigating each complaint, where appropriate, the Attorney General's Office worked with the public entity to achieve compliance with state law.

The results of the Attorney General's investigations are summarized below, along with the assigned numbers that may be used on the Attorney General's website to locate each response letter. To do so, go to http://www.ago.alabama.gov/Firearms, scroll down and enter the number in the keyword box. When the next screen appears, scroll again to the bottom and you will see a summary of the letter with the number on the left. Click on the number, scroll again to the bottom of the screen, and you will find the complete letter.

City of Birmingham (2017-025)

The Attorney General's Office reviewed a complaint that the City of Birmingham failed to comply with Alabama law because it prohibited firearms at the Southern Museum of Flight. It was determined that the Southern Museum of Flight is permitted to prohibit possession of firearms because it actively excludes unauthorized persons from entry and requires the purchase of an admission ticket to enter. The Attorney General has determined that no further action is required.

City of Auburn (2017-026)

The Attorney General's Office received a complaint that the City of Auburn failed to comply with Alabama law because it prohibited weapons at City facilities through a city ordinance. After the Attorney General's Office communicated with the City, the City stated that it has not enforced this ordinance and will not do so in the future. The Attorney General has determined that no further action is required.

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City of Huntsville (2018-001)

The Attorney General's Office received a complaint that the City of Huntsville failed to comply with Alabama law because The Huntsville Police Department's Bike Unit at the Von Braun Center was used only for storage. However, an investigation determined that the bike unit was fully operational. Because the City is compliant with Alabama law, the Attorney General determined that no further action is required.

Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries/Montgomery State Farmers Market (2018-002)

The Attorney General's Office received a complaint that the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries failed to comply with Alabama law because it prohibited firearms at the Montgomery State Farmers Market. After the Attorney General communicated with the Department, the Department removed the signs prohibiting firearms. Because the Department is compliant with Alabama law, the Attorney General has determined that no further action is required.

Town of Southside (2018-003)

The Attorney General's Office received a complaint that the Town of Southside unlawfully prohibited firearms at the Southside Community Center while it served as a polling place. An investigation determined that once the oversight was brought to the attention of the poll workers, immediate measures were taken to obscure the sign from public view. To prevent a similar oversight in the future, the Town of Southside will amend the sign to note that firearms are not prohibited when the Southside Community Center is used as a polling place. Because the Town is compliant with Alabama law, the Attorney General has determined that no further action is required.

Huntsville Hospital Health System (2018-004)

The Attorney General's Office received a complaint that the Huntsville Hospital System failed to comply with Alabama law because it prohibited firearms at the Blackwell Medical Tower. An investigation determined that signs prohibiting firearms were posted at the Blackwell Medical Tower. Huntsville Hospital Health System explained that the Blackwell Medical Tower is the western entrance point to Huntsville Hospital Main, a 941-bed acute care hospital that serves patients, including inpatient and custodial care of those with psychiatric, mental and emotional disorders. State law allows firearms to be prohibited "[i]nside a facility which provides inpatient or custodial care of those with psychiatric, mental or emotional disorders." Because Huntsville Hospital Health System is compliant with Alabama law, the Attorney General has determined that no further action is required.